Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-25 (Canceled)

26. (New) A transgenic mouse whose genome comprises a disruption in an endogenous putative protein phosphatase 2C gene comprising SEQ ID NO:1, wherein where the disruption is homozygous, the transgenic mouse exhibits at least one of the following, relative to a wild-type mouse: a stimulus processing deficit and an abnormal startle response.

27. (New) The transgenic mouse of claim 26, wherein the stimulus processing deficit comprises decreased prepulse inhibition.

28. (New) The transgenic mouse of claim 27, wherein the decreased prepulse inhibition is observed with a 90 decibel and 100 decibel prepulse.

29. (New) A cell or tissue derived from the transgenic mouse of claim 26.

30. (New) A method of producing a transgenic mouse whose genome comprises a disruption in a putative PP2C gene comprising SEQ ID NO:1, the method comprising:

(a) introducing a targeting construct capable of disrupting the putative protein phosphatase 2C gene comprising SEQ ID NO:1 into a mouse embryonic stem cell;

(b) introducing the mouse embryonic stem cell into a blastocyst;

(c) introducing the blastocyst into a pseudopregnant mouse, wherein said pseudopregnant mouse gives birth to a chimeric mouse; and

(d) breeding the chimeric mouse to produce the transgenic mouse,

wherein where the disruption is homozygous, the transgenic mouse exhibits at least one of the following, relative to a wild-type mouse: a stimulus processing deficit and an abnormal startle response.

31. (New) A targeting construct capable of disrupting a putative protein phosphatase 2C gene comprising SEQ ID NO:1, the targeting construct comprising:

(a) a first polynucleotide sequence homologous to a putative protein phosphatase 2C gene comprising SEQ ID NO:1;

(b) a second polynucleotide sequence homologous to the putative protein phosphatase 2C gene; and

(c) a selectable marker;

wherein the targeting construct produces a disruption in the putative phosphatase 2C gene, wherein the disruption, when present in the genome of a transgenic mouse in a

homozygous state, results in a phenotype of a stimulus processing deficit or abnormal startle response, relative to a wild-type mouse.

32. (New) The targeting construct of claim 31, wherein the targeting construct further comprises a screening marker.

33. (New) A method of producing a targeting construct capable of disrupting a putative protein phosphatase 2C gene comprising SEQ ID NO:1, the method comprising:

(a) providing a first polynucleotide sequence homologous to the putative protein phosphatase 2C gene comprising SEQ ID NO:1;

(b) providing a second polynucleotide sequence homologous to the putative protein phosphatase 2C gene;

(c) providing a selectable marker; and

(d) inserting the first sequence, second sequence, and selectable marker into a vector, to produce the targeting construct;

wherein the targeting construct produces a disruption in the putative phosphatase 2C gene, wherein the disruption, when present in the genome of a transgenic mouse in a homozygous state, results in a phenotype of a stimulus processing deficit or abnormal startle response, relative to a wild-type mouse.

34. (New) A method of producing a targeting construct capable of disrupting a putative protein phosphatase 2C gene comprising SEQ ID NO:1, the method comprising:

(a) providing a polynucleotide comprising a first sequence homologous to a first region of the putative protein phosphatase 2C gene comprising SEQ ID NO:1 and a second sequence homologous to a second region of the putative protein phosphatase 2C gene; and

(b) inserting a positive selection marker in between the first and second sequences to form the targeting construct;

wherein the targeting construct produces a disruption in the putative phosphatase 2C gene, wherein the disruption, when present in the genome of a transgenic mouse in a homozygous state, results in a phenotype of a stimulus processing deficit or abnormal startle response, relative to a wild-type mouse.

35. (New) A mouse embryonic stem cell comprising a disruption in an endogenous putative protein phosphatase 2C gene comprising SEQ ID NO:1, the disruption produced using the targeting construct of claim 31.

36. (New) A method of identifying an agent capable of ameliorating a phenotype associated with a disruption in a putative protein phosphatase 2C gene comprising SEQ ID NO:1, the method comprising:

(a) administering a test agent to a transgenic mouse whose genome comprises a disruption in a putative protein phosphatase 2C gene comprising SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the transgenic mouse exhibits a stimulus processing deficit or abnormal startle response, relative to a wild-type mouse; and

(b) determining whether the test agent ameliorates the stimulus processing deficit or the abnormal startle response in the transgenic mouse.